From: Michele Conlon

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Subject: oil spill update (Tuesday 7/13) **Date:** 07/13/2010 10:54 PM

Just a reminder that some of the information in these updates is considered internal & deliberative, and is therefore, not to be discussed broadly.)

Today's discussions were focused on the ORD Dispersant Analyses

ORD Independent Dispersant Analyses:

- The journal article for the NCCT-led analyses of the 8 dispersant samples
 has been published by ES&T on-line. It is available through the EPA library
 service the article is titled, "Analysis of Eight Oil Spill Dispersants Using
 Rapid, In Vitro Tests for Endocrine and Other Biological Activity."
- The contractor conducting the whole animal toxicity tests is beginning some re-tests this weekend, because they were not able to obtain acceptable LC-50 values. The tests should be completed by 7/23 and the GED scientists expect to finish a draft report by 7/30.
- Al is planning to conduct baffled flask tests of the 8 dispersant samples, for the purpose of comparing those efficacy results with the swirl flask tests required by Subpart J for the NCP product schedule. The swirl flask test has come under scrutiny as an efficacy measure, and several scientists have suggested the baffle flask test would be a more informative and reliable measure. Al hopes to have an on-site contractor conduct the tests and provide results within several weeks.
- In response to questions from a Senate member, ORD-Las Vegas conducted analyses for Arsenic in COREXIT 9500, source oil, and gulf area sea water. The results were used for a fact sheet to prepare the Administrator for a hearing Thursday. The upshot of the analyses was that COREXIT has trace Arsenic levels that are well below the action level for EPA's drinking water standard.

Other Happenings:

- The balloon and boats to measure dioxin in the burn plume set sail yesterday, and sample collection may be begun today.
- NOAA and OAQPS/OAR have been discussing the use of AMS to evaluate the possible formation of secondary organic aerosols (SOA) formation in the gulf, and they have approached NERL scientists, requesting scientific expertise, including data interpretation. OAQPS and ORD agree that SOA formation is not likely to be at levels of concern, but OAQPS has elevated the issue to their upper management and is interested in testing the AMS approach for evaluating SOA formation. If the investigation of SOA formation is of interest to the Agency, NERL staff have suggested using filter sampling methods, because it is unclear that AMS analyses would provide any advantage over filtration-based tests, which are less expensive, more portable, and more readily available.

Thanks, Michele

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